

Highlights

- ✓ More food handler classes were instructed in 2002 compare to 2001: a 491 percent increase in special sessions and 41 percent increase in regular sessions.
- ✓ A reduction of \$100,000 from the additional amount of nuisance abatement starting in 2003.
- ✓ The Adopted budget includes the elimination of the Environmental Services Supervisor position and the contingency for mowing and lot clean ups.
- ✓ Implementation of fee increased for several programs is included to offset increasing operating expenses.

The core purpose of the Department of Environmental Health is to provide for a safe environment by enforcing environmental standards in the City of Wichita and the unincorporated areas of Sedgwick County.

Overview

In a collaborative effort to more closely align similar services and clients, the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County shifted Preventive Health Services under the umbrella of County administration, while the City of Wichita retained the administration of Environmental Health beginning with fiscal 2002. The Environmental Health Department, previously a division of the former consolidated Community Health Department, remains a component in the overall City/County health program.

The Department is responsible for air quality control, water quality control, animal control, environmental code enforcement, food protection and tobacco control and licensure of childcare facilities. The Department also administers the groundwater remediation efforts of Gilbert & Mosley and the North Industrial Corridor, both funded through tax increment financing districts.

Finance and Operations

The General Fund finances Environmental Health along with program revenue and grant support from the Community Development Block Grant, the Environmental Protection Agency and from the State of Kansas. Program budgets are maintained for those services provided exclusively within the City limits and those that are provided throughout the County, which are included in the City-County funding formula.

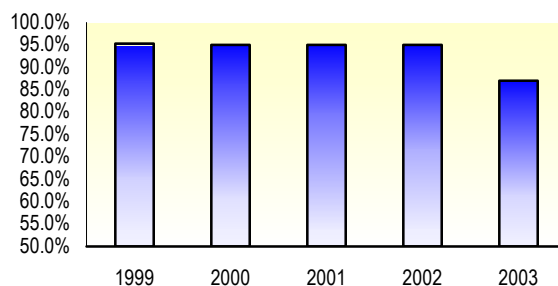
Code Enforcement. Code Enforcement division includes several programs: the Food Protection program, Pool Inspection Program, the Tobacco Sales Enforcement.

Food Protection Program. The Food Protection Program provides regulatory oversight, consultative services and educational support for food establishments in Wichita and Sedgwick County. Inspections of food service establishment

are partially funded under a contract with KDHE. In 2002, the Department conducted 3,043 inspections of area food service facilities.

Food service inspection services and food handlers' classes are offered by the Health Department under contract with KDHE. A 2001 KDHE approved increase in fees for inspection and licensing of food service provides funding for an additional food inspector beginning in 2002 to assist with inspecting a total of 3,043 food service establishments in Sedgwick County. The additional inspector has improved the cost recovery and helped ensure that area citizens continue to be protected from food-borne pathogens and illnesses. In 2002, the inspectors held 5,189 food handlers regular sessions, an increase of 41 percent compared to 3,685 regular sessions held in 2001.

Food Establishments with "A" Rating



Pool Inspection Program. Environmental Health conducts inspections of more than 250 swimming pools and spas in the City, enforcing health and safety standards including pH and chlorine levels, water clarity, and the presence of safety equipment. Staff performs more than 1,000 swimming pool and spa inspections per year at licensed pool/spa facilities.

Tobacco Sales Enforcement. Tobacco vendors operating within the City of Wichita are periodically checked by the

Health Department to ensure licensing requirements are met. Volunteers are used for undercover tobacco sales compliance checks. In 2002, the City conducted 144 checks and had an 85.2 percent compliance rate, which compares favorably to the prior year compliance rate of 81 percent. Health Department staff also conduct a program to educate youth in the community about the negative consequences of smoking.

Child Care Licensing. The City contracts with the State of Kansas to provide child care licensure services in Sedgwick County. Funded with local tax dollars, licensure fees, and a grant from the State of Kansas, a staff of eight educate, inspect, and license providers making on average, 280 field visits monthly. Orientation and continuing education programs are offered free of charge to assist providers with maintaining a safe and enriching environment for the children.

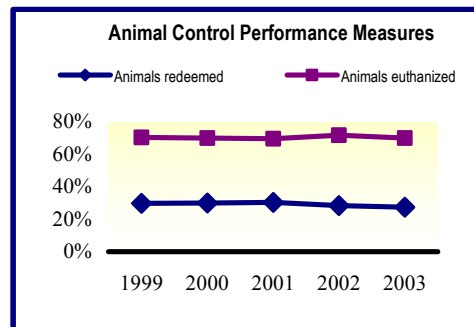
Picture: Child care staff provide instruction and assistance to help area child care providers meet licensing requirements.



Animal Control. The Animal Control section provides field activities and operates the Wichita Animal Shelter. Striving to keep dangerous or rabid animals off of the streets. Animal Control Officers respond to citizen calls to pick up stray animals, issue summons for leash law violations, remove dead animals, transport injured animals for emergency treatment and investigate cruelty complaints in the City. In addition, officers investigate all animal bites in Sedgwick County and quarantine animals suspected of having rabies.

The Wichita Animal Shelter is the holding facility for all animals received from the City of Wichita, including stray animals held for a three-day redemption period, quarantined rabies suspect animals and unwanted pets turned over by the public. Shelter services are provided under contract for animal control programs operated by Sedgwick County and for other area cities.

A pet adoption program is offered which requires a pre-payment for spaying and neutering. Responsible pet ownership is promoted with a public education program, including an internet-based pet adoption program that enables interested citizens to see pictures and get information about animals available for adoption.



Selected Service Levels - Water Quality				
	2000	2001	2002	2003
Private well inspections	1,718	2,138	2,308	2,400
On-site sewage sytem inspections	325	109	78	100
Wells/Septics real estate evaluations	719	856	1,043	1,100
Private water analyzed	1,465	1,628	1,426	1,550
Plats or subdivisions reviewed for MAPC	41	41	4	10

Selected Service Levels - Air Quality				
	2000	2001	2002	2003
Ambient (outdoor) air samples	2,158	2,400	2,288	2,450
Air toxicity samples	28	25	30	30
Investigations of ambient (outdoor) air toxicity	39	27	25	30
Investigations of indoor air toxicity	238	217	175	230
Investigations for asbestos	221	159	86	100
Permitted industrial air pollution inspections	164	178	184	200
Hazardous Material responses	105	104	124	124

Environmental Assessment and Remediation. Environmental Assessment and Remediation consists of air and water quality programs, and assessment of sites for environmental contaminants, as well as the remediation of contaminated sites. Assisted with federal and state grants, both water and air quality are monitored and preventive and remedial actions

initiated. Staff also manages the groundwater remediation efforts in the Gilbert and Mosley and North Industrial Corridor Tax Increment Financing Districts.

In 2003 EPA funding for the Ark River Water quality study and Brownsfield investigations will cease. The Ark River study assesses the water in the lower Arkansas River focusing on pollution sources that diminish the quality of the water and the impact upon the river and its users. Ultimately, as a result of the study, preventive measures will be developed to improve the quality of the river water for the benefit of future generations. The Brownsfield funds are utilized to conduct environmental assessments to determine the presence or absence of environmental pollutants in abandoned or under-utilized industrial and commercial sites where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

The Water Quality staff inspects placement and construction of water wells and septic/sewage systems to ensure the safety of the water supply. In 2002, Water Quality staff conducted 2,308 private well inspections, analyzed 1,426 water samples, processed 110 septic system applications, and inspected 256 septic systems and waste water disposal systems. In addition, the staff review subdivision plats and provide evaluations of water and septic systems for loan evaluations. Water quality activities are supported with State funds as well as local tax dollars and user fees which have been increased to reflect staff costs.

Air Quality staff monitor ambient air 24 hours per day from eight sites for various air quality parameters. In 2002, the staff conducted 175 indoor air quality investigations, responded to 124 hazardous material incidents, conducted 86 asbestos

investigations and inspected 184 permitted operations. Air quality activities are financed with State grants and local tax dollars.

Environmental Assessment and Remediation staff responded to 887 requests for public information, sampled water from 67 monitoring wells, sampled water from 20 surface sites and drilled 30 test holes. In addition, the staff review and process applications for release from liability from groundwater contamination in the Gilbert and Mosley and North Industrial Corridor. Managing the investigation and remediation of the contaminated sites is a primary responsibility of Assessment and Remediation staff.

Environmental Maintenance Code Enforcement. The Environmental Maintenance Code Enforcement section investigates and resolves premise condition complaints involving neighborhood blight, safety or public health issues. In 2002, 7,757 public complaints were received for premise conditions and an additional 2,126 public complaints were received for tall grass or weeds. The staff directly initiated an additional 2,884 cases. The field staff was successful in having 2,280 junk vehicles removed and in bringing 6,641 properties into compliance. In 2002, of the properties brought into compliance, the City cleaned or mowed 1,667 of those properties, which is a 67 percent increased compare to 941 properties that were done in 2001. The City continues to seek reimbursement for the cost from the property owners. Violations are resolved through voluntary compliance or referral to a private contractor for abatement or environmental court action.

CITY OF WICHITA

Beginning in 2001, the City Council has authorized increased funding for neighborhood cleanup and abatement of nuisance code violations. The Council action emphasized abatement and cleanup with less reliance on court-ordered remedies. An additional \$125,000 in 2002, \$235,000 in 2003, and \$455,000 in 2004 has been included for increased lot mowing and clean-up activity. Starting in 2003, \$100,000 will be reduced from the additional amount due to the budget constraint. The Joint Nuisance Code was enacted to develop a team concept for improved enforcement cooperation between Health, OCl and Police. Staff is undergoing a reorganization plan which will delete the Environmental Services Supervisor position.

The following program fees have been increased and/or added between 2002 and 2003 to offset the on-going increasing operating expenses: Food Establishments, Solid Waste Collectors, Animal Shelter Services, Dog Owner License, Domestic Animal Maintenance, Animal Redemption, Environmental Site Assessment, Private Water Supply or On-site Sewage Disposal System Evaluation, Private Water Well Sampling.

Selected Service Levels - Lot Mowing and Cleanup					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Lots mowed	964	772	1,237	1,500	1,500
Lots cleaned	173	169	430	500	500

Selected Service Levels - Nuisance Abatement					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Public premise condition complaints	9,201	7,856	7,757	4,500	3,000
Public complaints of tall grass/weeds	1,662	1,262	2,126	1,000	500
Staff-initiated premise conditions	1,133	979	1,067	1,200	1,200
Staff initiated tall grass-weed cases	1,799	1,965	1,817	1,900	1,900

Environmental Health Department Budget Summary					
	2002	2003	2003	2004	2005
	Actual	Adopted	Revised	Adopted	Approved
Personal Services	2,213,258	2,513,710	2,289,780	2,388,830	2,461,340
Contractual Services	747,130	846,920	687,710	923,110	923,150
Commodities	49,946	56,700	56,210	56,550	56,580
Capital Outlay	31,861	4,810	2,810	2,920	3,000
Other	85,740	179,840	94,100	1,850	0
Total Health Expenditures	3,127,935	3,601,980	3,130,610	3,373,260	3,444,070
Local Resources	3,127,935	3,601,980	3,130,610	3,373,260	3,444,070
Grant Resources	862,463	1,371,180	1,402,810	877,860	887,000
Total Health Resources	3,990,398	4,973,160	4,533,420	4,251,120	4,331,070
Total full-time positions	64	65	64	64	64
Total part-time positions	3	3	3	3	3
Total FTE	65.5	66.5	65.5	65.5	65.5